

21. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said thermoplastic elastomer comprises a hard segment and a soft segment.

22. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said hard segment comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of styrene, polypropylene, polyurethane, and polyester.

23. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said soft segment comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polyethylene, polybutylene, EPDM, EPM, polyether, and polyester.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 3-4 have been amended to remove multiple dependency. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found at page 12, lines 11-14, of the specification. Claims 6-23 are added. Support for new Claim 6-23 can be found at page 1 to page 23 of the specification and the original claims. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by these amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-23 are pending in the present application. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claimed invention is a sheet for covering the skin or hair containing a thermoplastic resin and a medical ingredient (see Claim 1, lines 1 to 2). An important feature of the present invention is that the claimed sheet has a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50% (see Claim 1, lines 3 to 4). The claimed sheet can act

effectively on the sight of the skin or hair to which the sheet is applied by obtaining excellent conformity to the skin or hair (see page 12, lines 5-14, and the results reported in Tables 1-4 at pages 15-21 of the specification). As a result, the claimed sheet contacts the skin for an increased period of time, and can provide a comfortable sensation throughout the duration of its use (see page 12, lines 5-14, and the results reported in Tables 1-4 at pages 15-21 of the specification). The claimed sheet can accomplish the above phenomena through to its excellent conformity to the skin or hair which is due to the claimed modulus (see page 12, lines 5-14, and the results reported in Tables 1-4 at pages 15-21 of the specification).

The rejections of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over any of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,122,158 (U.S. '158), 4,344,431 (U.S. '431), and 6,063,397 (U.S. '397) are respectfully traversed.

U.S. '158 describes a method and composition for the topical application of an active ingredient to the skin (see Abstract). This composition contains a fabric carrier of a polyolefin polymer (see column 4, lines 2-8) and an active agent (see column 3, lines 3-6). The invention described in U.S. '158 is aimed at solving the problem of treating burns through a controlled release of the above-mentioned active agent from the above-mentioned composition to the burn site (see column 2, lines 16-21). Nowhere in U.S. '158 can it be found that the composition possesses increased conformity to the skin or hair; thereby increasing the time that the composition contacts the skin and providing a comfortable sensation during its use. Further, U.S. '158 does not describe a composition containing a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%.

product claim

In direct contrast, the claimed invention is directed to a sheet having a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%. The claimed modulus of the

sheet results in a sheet having excellent conformity to the skin or hair. Therefore, U.S. '158 fails to describe or suggest the claimed sheet which contains from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin, from 0.01 to 200 parts by weight of a medical ingredient, and a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%. Accordingly, the claimed invention is not obvious in view of U.S. '158, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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line 47-49
U.S. '431 describes an article containing a polyolefin and a drug for the automatic controlled dispensing of quantities of a drug to the bloodstream through the implantation of the device subcutaneously (see column 3, lines 1-13). Nowhere in U.S. '431 can it be found that the article possesses increased conformity to the skin or hair; thereby increasing the time that the article contacts the skin and providing a comfortable sensation during its use. Further, U.S. '431 does not describe a composition containing a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%.

In direct contrast, the claimed invention is directed to a sheet having a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%. The claimed modulus of the sheet results in a sheet having excellent conformity to the skin or hair. Therefore, U.S. '431 fails to describe or suggest the claimed sheet which contains from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin, from 0.01 to 200 parts by weight of a medical ingredient, and a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%. Accordingly, the claimed invention is not obvious in view of U.S. '431, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

U.S. '397 describes a disposable, single use personal care cleansing and conditioning product containing a polyolefin substrate, a conditioning agent, and a lathering surfactant (see

column 2, lines 59-67). Nowhere in U.S. '397 can it be found that the product possesses increased conformity to the skin or hair; thereby increasing the time that the produce contacts the skin and providing a comfortable sensation during its use. Further, U.S. '397 does not describe a composition containing a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%.

In direct contrast, the claimed invention is directed to a sheet having a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%. The claimed modulus of the sheet results in a sheet having excellent conformity to the skin or hair. Therefore, U.S. '397 fails to describe or suggest the claimed sheet which contains from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin, from 0.01 to 200 parts by weight of a medical ingredient, and a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%. Accordingly, the claimed invention is not obvious in view of U.S. '397, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

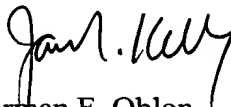
The rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the cancellation of this claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure under MPEP §608.01(b) is believed to be obviated by the filing of the substitute Abstract of the Disclosure attached herewith which contains only one paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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HEREWITH

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please delete the Abstract at page 25 in full and replace with the substitute Abstract attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A sheet for covering the skin or hair comprising 100 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin (A) and 0.01 to 200 parts by weight of a medical ingredient (B) acting on the skin or hair, wherein said sheet comprises a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%.

2. (Amended) [A] The sheet according to [claim] Claim 1, [which comprises] wherein said sheet comprises no adhesive layer other than the sheet itself containing the ingredients (A) and (B).

3. (Amended) [A] The sheet according to [claim] Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the ingredient (A) is a polyolefin resin.

4. (Amended) [A] The sheet according to [claim] Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the medical ingredient (B) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a moisturizer, a whitening agent, a UV absorber, a slimming agent, a circulation promoter, an astringent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a wrinkle-formation preventive agent, [and] an ameliorating agent, a cooling

agent, a warming agent, a hair remover, a hair growing agent, a hair-growth regulating agent, and a hair nourishing agent.--

--Claims 6-23 are new.--